

A PARTIAL LIST OF THE FLORA OF WABASH AND CASS COUNTIES WITH NOTES.

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No attempt was made to collect specimens for determination, and this list is, of necessity, provisional. There are many other species not identified. The botanical names are those of Gray's Manual of Botany, Revised Edition, 1890.

Acer saccharinum, Wang.

Sugar Maple.

Once very common. This is the tree that furnishes the well-known syrup. There is a growing demand for sugar maple lumber for making inlaid work and furniture, and for veneers, etc.

Acer rubrum, Linne.

Red, or Swamp Maple.

This tree is less valuable for lumber than the former, and it is rarely "tapped" for the sap. In early spring it is a mass of brilliant bloom, flaming like a huge ruby against the background of the bare branches of its flowerless neighbors. As a shade tree it does not make the rapid growth of the silver maple.

Carya alba, Nutt.

Shell-bark Hickory.

Once very common, but now very rare. This is the tree which furnishes the shell-bark hickory.

Carya tomentosa, Nutt.

White-heart Hickory.

A few of this species were seen, but it, like the other, is becoming rarer each year. It may be known by the very thick hull of the nut and the small kernel.

Carya porcina, Nutt.

Pig-nut Hickory.

A large, valuable tree. The wood is extensively used for carriage work of the best class. The fruit of this tree is small and sweet at first, but leaving a bitter, disagreeable taste in the mouth. The bark of this species was formerly much used for chair seats, as, being tough, it could be woven readily into any shape desired.

Celtis occidentalis, Linne.

Hackberry.

A worthless tree that bears an edible fruit of which the birds are very fond; beyond this and as a fuel, it has no excuse for cumbering the ground on which it grows.

Platanus occidentalis, Linne.

Sycamore. Common.

A striking tree, both by reason of great size and color. At a distance a grove of these trees look like they had been white-washed and then splashed with patches of umber. The wood is in demand for the manufacture of cigar and tobacco boxes, it being one of the few woods that does not flavor the tobacco packed in it.

Corylus americana, Walt.

Hazel-nut.

This shrub grows extensively in Cass County and very sparingly in Wabash. The fruit is excellent after it is properly cured.

Hamamelis virginiana, Linne.

Witch Hazel.

A single specimen of this species was seen in Wabash County. It seems to be rare and is growing rarer each year, as it will not bear domestication, and is not worth the trouble if it would bear it.

Fagus ferruginea, Ait.

Beech.

This and the sugar maple constitute three-fourths of the forests of the two counties. In the early settlement of the State the settlers depended on the mast of this tree to grow and fatten their year's supply of pork, and the failure of the mast crop was a serious matter to them; now no one pays any attention to this subject, and a failure or abundance is not noted.

Carpinus caroliniana, Walter.

Water Beech.

A scrubby little tree that was formerly, at log-rollings, used for hand-spikes; but now is altogether useless economically.

Fraxinus americana, Linne.

Gray Ash, White Ash.

This noble tree was once common all over the State wherever there was a rich, moist soil. The great demand for it both for lumber and for fencing rails has about swept the remaining forests of it, but occasionally one remains towering above the surrounding beech and maple, its spreading top, crowning some ridge, visible for miles. Cut into veneers, there is no other native wood that surpasses it for beauty of grain and durability.

Fraxinus viridis, Michx.

Green Ash.

A smaller tree than the *F. americana*, and used principally for fencing rails and firewood.

Fraxinus sambucifolia, Lam.

Black Ash, Basket Ash.

A small tree used principally in the early settlement of the country for making baskets and bottoming chairs. It was prepared for this purpose by being cut to suitable lengths, soaked in water and then pounded with a mallet or billet of wood until it would separate along the lines of growth. It was then split into strips of the desired width and woven into baskets and chair bottoms.

Fraxinus quadrangulata, Michx.

Blue Ash.

A large tree found growing in boggy and swampy places, and, like the gray ash, it reaches noble proportions. Its well-known power to resist decay made it an universal favorite for rails and fence posts, and consequently it has nearly disappeared. A few years since one of us was shown a fence built of this timber, on the farm then owned by Levi Poke, of Fayette County, that had been built fifty-three years and appeared good for another half century.

Asimina triloba, Dunal.

Pawpaw.

One of our best native fruits, but sadly neglected. It is certainly worthy of cultivation, and doubtless could be very much improved in size and productiveness.

Juglans cinerea, Linne.

Butternut.

A few scrubby, half dead butternuts, the last of their race, were seen. This tree seems unable to adapt itself to new conditions, and is rapidly dying out. This is a pity, for it furnishes a beautiful wood for the cabinet maker and an excellent nut.

Juglans nigra, Linne.

Black Walnut.

A few noble specimens of this grand tree were seen on some of the Indian Reservations, south of the Mississinewa River, in Wabash County. The exceedingly high price paid for walnut lumber a few years since induced nearly all the owners of trees to sell, and one may now travel for days before finding a single fair-sized tree when once they could be counted by the thousands.

Liriodendron tulipifera, Linne.

Yellow Poplar, Tulip-tree.

This beautiful and valuable tree was once common over the greater part of the State, but it is now rare. Its bloom is the most beautiful of any of our native trees, rivaling that of the far-famed magnolia of the South. It secretes a great deal of nectar, of which the bees and ants are very fond, the latter climbing to the top of the tallest trees to feed on the bloom. This I know to be true for I have shot the blossoms off the tall trees and found ants feeding in them when they fell to the ground. A. C. B.

Quercus phellos, Linne.

Willow-Oak.

A grove of this was seen in Cass County, one and one-half miles east of Lake Cicott, and another in Bethlehem Township. It is a rare tree, growing only on the sand ridges. It may be readily recognized by its dwarf growth and long, narrow, willow-like leaves.

Quercus rubra, Linne.

Red Oak.

Once very common; has now become rare, owing to the demand for it to make "quarter-oak" lumber for furniture and interior decorations. It was regarded by the farmer as of little value for the reason that when made into rails, unless they were made very small, they rotted in the center and left nothing but a thin shell on the outside.

Quercus alba, Linne.

White Oak.

A few trees of this species were seen in both Cass and Wabash Counties, but they were dying at the top and will soon be gone. A number of young groves are scattered over the two counties and in time will be very valuable, for there is no other tree in this latitude that can replace it for certain uses.

Quercus muhlenbergii, Engelman.

Chinquapin.

A medium sized tree with a sweet fruit of which children, squirrels and birds are very fond. The woodpecker lays up great hoards of this, beechnuts and other fruit. Ornithologists say the birds do not eat of these nuts, but feed on the grubs that are hatched in them.

Quercus macrocarpa, Michx.

Burr Oak.

Some magnificent trunks of this tree were seen in the southern part of Cass County, probably the last of a mighty race of giants once dominating the forest. These tree trunks were gotten out for shipment to Liverpool, England, and measured 26x28 inches, fifty feet long. The wood of this tree is more open than that of the white oak, and therefore in less demand by those acquainted with its qualities. This accounts for the preservation of the specimens seen.

Ulmus americana, Linne.

American Elm.

This is the noblest of our forest trees, and has greater individuality than any other I have ever seen. When one has seen a beech, maple, sycamore, poplar, or any other of our trees, he has seen all, for they are all alike. But it is not so with the elm, each one differs from all others, and herein lies its great charm. The young tree is as lissome and graceful as a maiden, and the old trees, even when a part of the crown is

dead, and it has grown one-sided, is still pretty. If those who plant shade trees would select this instead of the maple, buckeye or Carolina poplar, they would have a tree that would live two or three hundred years and constantly increase in beauty and majesty as it grew older, instead of becoming a standing brush pile as most other trees do after twenty or thirty years—A. C. B.

Pinus serotina, Ehrh.

Wild Black Cherry.

A large tree that was formerly in demand for making furniture, but of late years has fallen into neglect.

Pinus virginiana, Linne.

Choke Cherry.

Was seen growing abundantly on the bluffs at Hanging Rock, in Wabash County.

Myosotis arvensis, Hoffman.

Wild Forget-me-not.

This beautiful little plant was found growing sparsely in Cass County, near Lake Cicott, and in Bethlehem Township. It seems to prefer the sand ridges and sandy fields, and was not seen elsewhere. It is very beautiful and is worthy of a place in every garden.

Clematis viorna, Linne.

Leather-Flower.

This odd and beautiful flower was seen on Shultz' Cone, in Wabash County, but not elsewhere. Numerous fragments of the sepals were scattered about and bore the appearance of having been partly eaten by some animal, possibly the ground squirrel, *Tamias striata*, as their burrows were here numerous. Some years since I saw this same vine in Cass County, near Curocton, but have not seen it since, though it may be abundant there.—A. C. B.

Clematis virginiana, Linne.

Virgins-Bower.

Common in Cass and Wabash Counties.

Anemone pennsylvanica, Linne.

Pennsylvania Anemone.

Rather common in the bogs and sloughs of Cass County.

Anemone virginiana, Linne.

Occurs in the open woods of Wabash and Cass Counties, where it seems to flower two or three weeks later than in the latitude of Indianapolis.

Anemone nemorosa, Linne.

Wind-flower.

This was not seen in bloom, but the plant was readily recognized by its general appearance.

Hepatica acutiloba, D. C.

Liver-Leaf.

This was not seen in bloom. It occurs in both counties; in fact, it seems to be pretty well distributed over the State.

Myosurus minimus, Linne.

Mouse-Tail.

Cass County. Rare.

Caltha palustris, Linne.

Marsh Marigold.

Rather rare in Wabash, but common in the swamps of Cass County.

Aquilegia canadensis, Linne.

Wild Columbine.

This beautiful flower is rather abundant on the rocks of the Wabash River west of Logansport, and it occurs rather sparingly in Wabash County along the river bluffs.

Hydrastis canadensis, Linne.

Golden Seal.

Rare.

Delphin exaltatum, Ait.

Tall Larkspur.

Rare in Wabash County.

Delphinium azureum, Michx.

Rare in both counties, not more than half a dozen plants having been seen.

Podophyllum peltatum, Linne.

May-Apple.

Common everywhere.

Brasenia peltata, Pursh.

Water-Shield.

Cass County. Not common.

Nymphae odorata, Ait.

Sweet-scented Water-Lily.

In ponds and lakes in both counties. One of our most beautiful and striking flowers.

Nuphar advena, Ait.

Spatter-Dock.

Common in Cass County.

Stylophorum diphyllum, Nutt.

Celandine Poppy.

Rather common in rich woods, where its large flowers attract attention wherever seen.

Sanguinaria canadensis, Linne.

Blood-Root.

A beautiful flower, with probably the purest white petals of any one of our native flowers. Common everywhere.

Capsella bursa-pastoris, Moench.

Shepherd's Purse.

Common.

Dicentra cucullaria, D. C.

Dutchman's Breeches.

A common and pretty little flower.

Corydalis aurea, Willd.

Golden Corydalis.

This is described in some of the text-books as low and spreading, but specimens were seen fully 18 inches high.

Deutaria laciniata, Muhl.

Dentaria heterophylla, Nutt.

Pepper-Root.

The former is rather abundant along streams and in rich, damp woods, while the latter is not common, and was only seen in rich woods.

Saponaria officinalis, Linne.

Bouncing Bet.

Viola cucullata, Gray.

Common Blue Violet.

Viola striata, Ait.

Pale Violet.

Viola canadensis, Linne.

Canada Violet.

Viola pubescens, Ait.

Yellow Violet.

Viola pedatifida.

Larkspur Violet.

Lake Cicott.

Parnassia caroliniana, Michx.

Grass of Parnassus.

Cass County on the banks of Crooked Creek.

Silene stellata, Ait.

Starry Campion.

Common in rich, moist woods and on the shaded side of fence rows.

Silene virginica, Linne.

Fire Pink, Indian Pink.

Next to the cardinal flower, this is the showiest of our wild flowers.

Portulaca oleracea, Linne.

Purslane.

A well known pest of the garden, and common everywhere.

Claytonia virginica, Linne.

Spring Beauty.

Common in warm, rich woods, and one of the earliest to bloom in this latitude; the pepper-and-salt and blood-root preceding it by a few days only.

Abutilon avicenne, Gaertn.

Indian Mallow, Velvet Leaf, Stamp Weed, Butter Print.

The common name, velvet leaf, aptly describes the leaves of this plant, which are as fine as a piece of the finest silk velvet; and butter print is from the fancied resemblance of the seed vessels to the print or mould housewives use in moulding butter.

Oxalis stricta, Sav.

Wood Sorrell, Sour Clover.

Much relished by the children for pleasant acid taste.

Oxalis violacea, Linne.

Violet Wood-Sorrell.

A rather handsome plant, common in most localities.

Rhus typhina, Linne.

Staghorn Sumach.

Rhus glabra, Linne.

Smooth Sumach.

Rhus toxicodendron, Linne.

Poison Ivy.

This is often confounded with the American ivy, but the latter differs in having five leaflets, while the former has but three. It is very variable in its mode of growth, when growing away from any support it is creeping, along fence rows it is shrubby and again it will climb to the top of the tallest trees. The latter form of growth is so striking that it was formerly erected into a distinct species as *R. radicans*.

Vitis æstivalis, Michx.

Summer Grape, Blue Grape.

▲ pleasant fruit, ripe in October.

Vitis cordifolia, Michx.

Frost Grape.

In favorable conditions of the atmosphere the fragrance of the bloom of this grape may be detected a long distance. Its fragrance is unlike that of any other flower in its wildness.

Amphelopsis quinquefolia, Michx.

Bitter-Sweet.

Seen only in Wabash. This climber is remarkably handsome in autumn when the vine is transformed into a flame of scarlet by the open covering of the seeds. It should be more generally cultivated as an ornamental plant.

Enonymus atropurpureus, Jacq.

Burning-Bush, Wahoo.

Conspicuous in autumn by its bunches of drooping crimson fruit.

Staphylea trifolia, Linne.

Bladder-nut, Rattle-box.

Not rare in either county. Rather conspicuous in autumn, after the leaves have fallen, by its inflated, three-cornered seed vessels.

Trifolium pratense, Linne.

Red Clover.

Trifolium repens, Linne.

White Clover.

Melilotus officinalis, Willd.

Yellow Sweet Clover.

The whole plant is fragrant.

Melilotus alba, Lam.

White Sweet Clover.

Physocarpus opulifolius, Maxim.

Nine-bark.

Rocks and cliffs of Cass County.

Spiræa salicifolia, Linne.

Willow-leaved Meadow-Sweet

Common in rich, wet ground.

Spiræa lobata, Jacq.

Queen of the Prairie.

Rare. The handsomest species of the genus; the flowers, a deep peach-blossom color, withering quickly on being plucked.

Rubus occidentalis, Linne.

Black Raspberry.

Common.

Rubus villosus, Ait.

Common or High Blackberry.

Rubus hispidus, Linne.

Swamp Blackberry.

Rather rare. Cass County.

Rosa Carolina, Linne.

Swamp Rose.

Common in Cass County.

Rosa lucida, Ehrhart.

Wild Rose.

Grows on the rocks of Wabash County and on the rocks and sandy ridges of Cass County.

Rosa rubiginosa, Linne.

Sweet Brier, Eglantine.

Crataegus cocinea, Linne

Red Haw.

Common.

Crataegus tomentosa, Linne.

Apple Haw.

Our largest fruited haw, the fruit often attaining a diameter of more than one inch.

Crataegus crus-galli, Linne.

Cock-spur Thorn.

May be known by its dark green shining leaves, and its long, slender, sharp thorns.

Pyrus coronaria, Linne.

Wild Crabapple.

The fragrance of its bloom is appreciated wherever it grows, and thrifty housewives utilize its fruit for jellies.

Amelanchier canadensis, F. & G.

Serviceberry.

Lagro, Wabash County.

Oenothera biennis, Linne.

Evening Primrose.

Common.